

"Tragic School Emergency"

Inherited From Old Regimes, Says City Education Chief

George J. Ryan, President of Board, Points to Short-sightedness and Neglect in Former Years as at Fault for Present Shortage

This is the sixth article in a series on the effects of congestion in the schools upon the education of the city's children. The seventh will appear on Monday.

By M. Jay Racusin

While there have been those associated with the conduct of the city's public school system who have thought to solve the congestion problem merely by minimizing its gravity or denying its existence, there is one who has no illusion about the matter. He is George J. Ryan, president of the Board of Education.

Mr. Ryan is willing to face the facts as a "tragic emergency," and manifests a determination to meet them with a firm and drastic hand. What his ideas are on the subject of the overcrowding of the schools and what he proposes to do about it are presented here in full.

Of course, he told the writer, the fundamental need for relieving the situation is more schools. He believes we have not enough schools mainly because of the almost endless red tape in which their creation is involved. If he has his way, there is to be some clean sweeping on this score in the immediate future.

Says Board Inherited Emergency

Mr. Ryan holds that the part-time situation is not a new thing, and attributes the present crisis to the lack of a progressive building program during previous city administrations. He lays blame also at the doors of previous Boards of Education for their lack of foresight in failing to reserve property for future purposes.

One should consider, too, he thinks, that the number of new school buildings required annually to keep pace with the present school growth is in itself a prodigious problem and that to correct the mistakes of the past and catch up with the shortage is wellnigh a superhuman task. He will, nevertheless, make such suggestions as will correct the mistakes of the past and catch up with the shortage is wellnigh a superhuman task. He will, nevertheless, make such suggestions as will correct the mistakes of the past and catch up with the shortage is wellnigh a superhuman task.

Part Time Due to Many Causes

Part time is not alone attributable to failure to build sufficient schools. The growth in the school population each year is so great that even in normal annual increases it requires the erection of twenty elementary schools and five high and special schools. The present part-time situation is in varying degrees due to the following causes:

1. The lack of a progressive building program during previous city administrations.
2. The cessation of building almost entirely during the period when the Gary plan was being foisted on the city.
3. The fluid character of our population, which takes children from one district where school housing is ample to another where seatings are scant.
4. The lack of foresight of past boards of education in reserving property for school purposes. This lack of possession of sites in favorable locations retards building programs.
5. Budden congestion in certain localities due to completed transit lines and completed subways have assembled huge populations in various districts almost overnight. This abnormal growth precludes the possibility of preparing school buildings in time.
6. The embargo on erecting school buildings during the World War. The present city administration immediately after its inauguration formulated a most comprehensive building program. Money was generously appropriated. Every encouragement was offered to accelerate the erection of schools. The World War, however, intervened and the necessity of diverting labor and materials for martial purposes caused an embargo to be placed on school buildings. This caused a serious delay in the progress of our building program.
7. Strikes, walk-outs and labor difficulties which caused a lack of skilled and unskilled labor in building trades after the war.
8. The building program was seriously hampered by the failure of contractors to complete schools owing to labor turnovers, competition for skilled labor by other cities and inflated wages offered by other building enterprises. All these not only increased building costs, but caused incessant delays.
9. Changes in school organization have contributed to the part-time perplexities. The organization of junior high schools, the establishment of special classes for handicapped children, the expansion of high school registration have through the necessarily reduced number of children in these classes absorbed space that might help reduce part-time pupils.
10. Above all, the public must realize that the normal increase in registration of our colossal school system is so huge as to require the erection of school buildings that would house the entire school population of some other cities. To keep pace with present school growth is a sufficiently prodigious task, but to correct the mistakes of the past and catch up with the part-time evil is considered almost beyond human ability by thinking people. In order to accomplish this apparently insurmountable task, the present system of erecting schools must be modified so as to save every minute of time possible.
11. Contrary to general belief, the present operation of constructing schools is not a mere matter of providing funds, selecting sites and preparing plans. The survey of the Bureau of Construction and Maintenance just completed shows that after months of work in the central office the project must be supervised and approved by other departments before plans and specifications are put out for estimate.
12. Tortuous Path to New Buildings
13. In order to show the perfect maze of official acts and channels must be traversed before a shovel of dirt

result in the greatest time efficiency in school construction.

"With this sole object in view recommendations will be submitted to the Board of Education to effect such changes in method, personnel, etc., as will accelerate school construction. Among them may be considered the following points brought out by the recent survey:

"1.—The personnel of the Bureau of Construction in the higher branches of the service must be increased. The strengthened in order to give added momentum to school planning. The selection of the new assistants or associates should be made by the Superintendent of Schools. But the Civil Service laws will not afford the material needed for this purpose.

"2.—The Plan Department must proceed to adopt a new formula for evolving complete and final plans for new schools. The superfluous drafting detail, the lack of sufficient authoritative supervision, the cost of drafting, the submission of alternate plans by contractors must receive attentive remedies.

"3.—The adoption of standardized plans that may be adapted to many new schools will further reduce the time of construction. If speed is to be had the interior of buildings at least must be adapted to type plans for various plot contours. Architectural individuality may be obtained by giving the exterior personality.

"4.—In preparing standardized plans, all bureaus and divisions carrying on educational and recreational work in school buildings should be consulted. In this new building program all the requirements of the various activities. The structural essentials not only for the regular school curriculum but also for extension and special activities will in this way be included in type plans.

"5.—The drafting forces and allied branches must be increased adequately to take care of the new program.

"6.—The Board of Education cannot possibly handle the building program. Part of the work must be given to architects familiar with school construction. The so-called 'farming out' of architectural drawings, inclusions and exclusions, architects' fees, but time is the main consideration. Other cities throughout the United States give work to architects not in the regular employ of the city or school system.

School Heads Act to Relieve Overcrowding

(Continued from page one)

This fall, how additions to three other schools were opened, how construction had been started on three new buildings and how plans are nearing completion for a fourth.

"What we ask of you," he told the principals, "is that you co-operate with us in using outside facilities to such an extent as will provide more complete schooling for students in high schools."

Great Co-operation Necessary

"If the recommendations partly complied are to have efficacy, it will be necessary for the Board of Superintendents to give the fullest co-operation in submitting recommendations for the content of school buildings. Frequent changes, inclusions and exclusions must be avoided. The most cordial assistance must be vouchsafed by the borough building departments, Board of Estimate, Municipal Art Commission and the Sinking Fund Commission. Part of the legal changes necessary before adopting short cuts and new procedure must be quickly formulated and pressed for adoption. The restriction of civil service lists must be removed and exemption granted where skilled artisans are sought.

"It probably will require some time before this forward-looking plan of building schools can be fully studied and adopted. In the mean time we are looking forward to the professional staff to invent or adopt such measures in school organization as will afford every child his full day of instruction. The ideal for which we are striving is a seat for every school child. While we are valiantly struggling toward that goal let us for the sake of posterity not adjust our present facilities to our school population as to give each child his opportunity for complete education. We have no desire to cloak or disguise the part time situation through the adoption of distorted school organizations. Statistics prove that this was done by former boards of education and more especially by that board which approved the Wirt plan. We are solicitous, however, of the child in school and at leisure, and most earnestly recommend that such community facilities, such public edifices and such available space as may be idle in school vicinities be used to surround the child with educational influences for the full school day.

All Is for the City's Youth

"The present small Board of Education is composed of members who are giving their time, their efforts and their sober thought to the school children of this great city. All of the members unflinchingly and without thought of recompense are joined in the enterprise of regaining for the boys and the girls of to-day what their predecessors enjoyed, viz., five hours of instruction in a seat that was theirs for their school life. Their efforts are not prompted by anticipation of reward

Anti-Klux Order Mobilizes; Will Fight Mayfield

Organization Numbers 25,000, Says Leader; Canvass of Capital Lists 1,000 Who Will Seek to Bar Texan

Plan Washington Expose

Congress Asked to Sift Charge That Klan Held Initiation Rites in Federal Buildings

From The Tribune's Washington Bureau

Washington, Nov. 24.—Organization of an anti-Klux order, known as the Order of the American Legion, was disclosed to-night by Larry O'Dea of Washington, a former White House Secret Service man. O'Dea said he is head of the society and that it now has 25,000 members. They discriminate, he said, against Negroes, "race nor color," and now have in their possession a complete list of all the Ku Klux Klans in Washington, which, he added, includes high officials of the State and Justice Departments.

All members of Congress who have been approached, he declared, have signified their intention of backing him, and now has a list of 1,000 names opposing the seating of Senator-elect Mayfield of Texas on the ground he cannot swear allegiance to the "Invisible Empire" and the United States also.

Congressional investigation of reported initiation of government officials into the Ku-Klux Klan, held in the Capitol and other public buildings, was demanded in the House to-day by Representative John W. Rainey, of Illinois. The introduction of the resolution followed the publication of a newspaper dispatch from Atlanta reporting that a dozen members of the Washington branch of the Knights of the Ku-Klux held a full-robed ceremony at midnight on November 14 in the crypt under the Capitol rotunda, at which a high official was inducted into the order.

All capital officials, including Captain Alfred Montford, in charge of the police force, and Colonel Elliott Wood, superintendent of the Capitol, denied that it would be possible to stage such an affair in the building. Mr. Rainey is determined to push his demand for an inquiry despite these statements, and with several other members will press Chairman Campbell of the Rules Committee for presentation of his measure to the House. It would give the investigating committee power to summon witnesses and administer oaths.

A report that the initiation ceremonies were held in the office of Representative Upshaw, of Georgia, was denied by his secretary.

Similar denials were made by Lieutenant Colonel C. O. Sherrill, officer in charge of public buildings and grounds, who denied rumors of the Klan's invasion of the State, War and Navy Building.

"It would have been impossible for any such ceremony to have been held in the Capitol," said Joseph G. Rogers, sergeant-at-arms of the House, to-day. "The guards who are doing night duty in the building did not and would not admit a dozen or more men," said Captain Montford. "I have made a hasty investigation which assures me that these reports are absolutely false."

Gets \$25,000 for Broken Back

SAN JUAN, P. R., Nov. 24.—James Elphick, of New York, and air service veteran, to-day was awarded the largest sum for personal damages ever recorded in Porto Rico—\$25,000. He brought suit in the United States Court for a broken back sustained in an automobile accident. An unusual point was that the fractures did not become known until more than two months after the accident.

Westchester School Plan Meets With Opposition

F. F. Moran Says Labor Wants Elected Boards and Free Books

Opposition to the provision in the tentative plan for reorganization of government in Westchester County for the substitution of a county board of education for rural school boards developed yesterday at a county conference of the educational committee of 100 at White Plains High School.

Fred F. Moran, secretary of the New York City Advisory Board of Industrial Education, in speaking on "What Labor Desires From the Schools," said "enough schools, sufficient class rooms of the right kind, competent teachers, free text books, elected school boards, a voted budget, the repeal of Lusk bills, classes for foreign born and the elimination of elaborate graduation exercises for grammar schools," are labor's wishes.

Dr. Franklin W. Johnson, of Yonkers, associate professor of education of Teachers' College, advocated a central high school for rural districts, and said the plan had been successful in Iowa and Montana.

Mrs. William D. Spornberg, of Port Chester, said that out of a population of 344,000 in Westchester County there were 10,000 foreign born, and that 12,000 had not taken out their first naturalization papers.

English Amateur to Try Radio to U. S. To-night

Britain Gives Special Permission to Manchester Wireless Society

HARTFORD, Conn., Nov. 24.—The first attempt ever made by a British amateur wireless station to send messages across the Atlantic Ocean will be made to-morrow night, beginning at 8 o'clock and lasting until 1 a. m., Eastern standard time, when a new English station, using 1,000 watts of power, will attempt to establish communication with Hiram Percy Maxin's station in this city.

Although American amateurs have been heard in England, government regulations abroad have made replies impossible. However, the Wireless Society of Manchester, England, has just received special permission from the English Postoffice Department to operate on 270 meters. With the call letters 5 M S, the British station will begin calling 1 A W, the Maxin station, at 8 o'clock, and as soon as its signals are acknowledged from this side will begin sending messages for this country, addressed to the American Radio Relay League.

Klan Organizer Defies Police, Then Vanishes

(Continued from page one)

nounced last night his intention to co-operate with the police authorities in the curbing of "any act of lawlessness, whether committed by individuals or by any organization."

Commissioner Enright declined to discuss possible police measures against the Klan. He said he was having the Mayor's first telegram printed and distributed as a police order, and added only: "If individuals or organizations in this city think they are above the law they are riding for a fall."

Meanwhile the man who had caused all this activity was explaining to batallions of reporters who besieged his rooms at the Hermitage, in recurrent waves, that the aims of the Klan had been misunderstood. He said also that he had been misrepresented.

"I have nothing to fear," Mr. Haywood said. "The police will not have to seek me out or follow me up. I am perfectly willing to report to any one in an official capacity and to rely upon my ability to convince him of the moral strength and legal standing of our cause. I will not be driven out of New York on a wave of prejudiced

hysteria, and I am prepared, if necessary, to go to jail to defend the principles of civil and religious liberty for which the Ku-Klux Klan stands. The Congressional investigation into the management of the Klan is an adverse report. What information has Mayor Hylan which the Federal authorities have not?"

Mr. Haywood added that he had taken only a temporary residence at the Hermitage, which was in no sense a headquarters or organization center for the Klan. After he had given up his room at the hotel later in the day he left no forwarding address. In answer to a suggestion that Mr. Haywood had been asked to leave, the manager said: "Nothing of the kind. He simply checked out."

Commissioner Hirschfeld's manifesto declares that "while we do not question the right of Protestants, like all other races, to organize, we do question the right of any class of people to form themselves into a militant organization. The Klan would be suppressed, the Commissioner promised 'with an iron hand.' He described the Klanism as possessing the outstanding characteristics of cowardice. 'Armed to the teeth,' the document reads, 'marauders fall upon their victim like a band of Bedouins upon the defenseless travelers of the desert.'"

Mayor Hylan's second telegram said: "We propose to protect the people. We have certain methods to apply. If any one disappears or is murdered we know exactly where to look. No state law is aimed directly at the Klan, but a conspiracy law forbids a conspiracy to foment trouble or to plan murder."

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